CHAPTER V

Findings and Recommendations

5.0 Summary of Findings

5.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The major findings of the present study are summarized as given below:

i. One of the major findings under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was that before the communication of the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) in the Experimental Village (Mawtneng), the number of Job Card holders in the first round was only 98 which comprises of only 58.

ii. Another finding under MGNREGA in the Controlled Village (Umkei), was that during the baseline data collection, the respondents have not registered under the programme. But in the final round of data collection it was found that the Job Card Holders that registered under MGNREGA was 149 which comprises of 88.

iii. Another remarkable findings under MGNREGA was in terms of the utilisation of the fund allocated to both the villages. It was found in the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) that the fund allocated for various work was fully utilised within mandate by the VEC like the labour cost, material cost, mandays and wages was paid accordingly (Table 4.3) before completion of the work. It shows that the
communication of Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) through one-on-one interactive communication process has impacted to a great extend in terms of utilisation of the fund under MGNREGA.

However, in the case of the Controlled Village (Umkei), the allocation of fund was not fully utilised before time after the work was sanctioned. Table 4.4, shows that most of the fund allocated to the VEC of the Controlled Village (Umkei) was spilled over to the next financial year. It was also found that in almost every financial year there was an unspent amount which was spilled over from one financial year to another. It is evident that the VEC of the Controlled Village (Umkei) lacks the communication of Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) through one-on-one interactive communication process by the researcher as the village was under observation.

5.2 Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

i. The finding under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was that out of the 34 BPL family 100

ii. Another finding on IAY on the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) was that respondents were aware and understood about the programme due to the communication of the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) to the respondents (Table 4.9 & 4.10). While comparing the baseline data collection at the beginning, their awareness and level of understanding was very low. Therefore, the data collection of the final round of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) shows a significant result where their benefits increased to a 100%. But the result of the Controlled Village (Umkei) was comparatively low.

iii. One of the findings was that the sources of information about the programme under IAY in the Controlled Village (Umkei) were only from the village members and
there was no information from other sources. But compared to the Experimental Village (Mawtneng), the respondents used other sources of information, that is, information communication on Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) through the researcher. Therefore, the result obtained from the baseline to the final round was 100%. But the benefits of the Controlled Village (Umkei) was only 40%(Table 4.10).

5.3 National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

i. One of the findings under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) was that most of the BPL families who availed the scheme under NSAP was 26.47% which comprises 24 belonging to the Old Age category, 3 under Disability and 3 Widows (Table 4.11, 4.12). Since, the respondents were communicated with the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) through one-on-one interactive communication process, as a result at the end of the data collection was positive with 100% benefits. But in the Controlled Village (Umkei) only 3 BPL families out of 65 have availed the scheme under NSAP (Table 4.11). Therefore, there was a clear indication that the respondents of the Controlled Village (Umkei) were not exposed to the communication on Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP).

5.4 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

i. One of the findings under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was that the number of the students enrolled under SSA increased from the baseline with 45 to the first round with 56. In the third, fourth and sixth round the number of students enrolled under SSA has increased from 62 to 101. In the final round of data collection it was found that 101 students of the village have enrolled themselves under SSA School (Table 4.14). Therefore, the result shows that there is a clear indication the
communication of the Information Literacy Package (ILRP) to all villagers of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) with 101 number of students enrolled in SSA, has impacted to a great extend compared to the Controlled Village (Umkei) with only 57 number of students enrolled in SSA Schools (Table 4.14).

ii. Another finding was that both the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) and the Controlled Village (Umkei) availed the same benefits from the Government like the School Grant, Teachers Grant, and the Maintenance Grant. But the benefits of the number of village student under SSA of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) was comparatively higher compared to the Controlled Village (Umkei). Therefore, the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) has impacted the villagers to a great extent (Table 4.14).

5.5 National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

i. One of the finding under NRHM was that the villagers of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) were not aware about the facilities under NRHM. After the communication of the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) through one-on-one interactive communication process, the awareness level of the respondents has immensely increased at the end of the final study (Table 4.18, 4.19). The Village Executive Members (VEM) started appointed ASHA, constituted one Village Health & Sanitation Committee (VHSN) and availed Rs.10,000/- every year for health and sanitation services. The respondents were able to use the ambulance facility by calling 108 in case of emergency, accidents etc. The number of the family registered under MHIS of the Experimental Village (Mawtneng) was 156 (93.41%) at the end of the study.

But in the case of the Controlled Village (Umkei), it was found that the VEM has appointed only two Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). There was no Village
Health & Sanitation Committee (VHSC) that was constituted in the village. The number of family enrolled under MHIS was only 120 (71.42%). It was also found that none of the family member has availed the ambulance facility.

As a result, the communication of Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) has impacted to a great extent to the Experimental Village (Mawtneng)

5.6 General findings

i. One of the major findings about the various Rural Development Programmes under study was that there was no proper information communication process from the department concerned. Therefore, the rural population lacks the understanding about any particular rural development programme meant for them, they were simply instructed by the village leaders without any understanding.

ii. Most of the government officials do not visit the villagers to provide information about various Rural Development Programmes. Even when they do visit they merely meet the Village Headman or the Executive Members of the village to discuss the programme implementation.

iii. One of the major findings was that it was necessary that information about the particular programme needed to be imparted to the village leaders, as they were expected to be the ones responsible to implement any of the central governmental schemes offered by the state. Information communication on Information Literacy Resource Package (IRLP) was the most useful tool and strategy to increase the level of awareness and understanding about any programme. Therefore, information communication of a particular programme may be passed to the educated and trained village leaders and indirectly they will pass the same to the villagers for their understanding.
5.7 Suggestions and recommendations for the proper implementation the Rural Development Programmes

i. From the study it was observed that the rural population lacks proper understanding about various Rural Development Programmes. The reason was that the government lacked seriousness about the proper implementation on how to communicate information to the villagers. The implementation agency did not take interest to travel to the rural and remote area of any village but instead they relied mostly on the village leaders who were mainly poor and uneducated.

ii. Awareness about any Rural Development Programme and its importance needed to be spelled out to the villagers through public meetings and open discussions. For instance, in the case of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) where a huge amount of money from the government and maximum labour force from the village was used and involved, awareness and understanding about the programme is compulsory.

iii. In order to bring into the notice of each and every villager it was suggested that leaflets in local language should be distributed to enable the villagers to have an overview about the implementation of the programme.

iv. In the village level, where illiteracy is a predominant factor, some of the village representative should be invited to attend workshops and trainings under any Rural Development Programme initiated by the Government. Incentives like TA/DA should also be paid to them while attending the programme. It may be concluded that the Government, in spite of the various problems encountered before and while implementing various Rural Development Programmes, should find ways and means to provide wide range of information on how to communicate information to the rural people. Information communication on the Information Literacy Resource
Package (ILRP) through one-on-one interactive communication process has proved to be one of the useful technique and strategies on how to resolve these issues for the overall improvement of the living conditions of the rural people. The Government should also improve education and enhance the information literacy for the specific programme meant for the rural poor.

5.8 The Research Hypothesis that there is a significant difference on the implementation of Rural Development Programmes before and after the communication of the Information Literacy Resource Package (ILRP) to the beneficiaries through one-on-one interactive information communication process was accepted.

5.9 Implications for future researches

The findings of the present study clearly indicate that the implementation of the Information Literacy Resource Packages (ILRPs) through one-on-one interactive process was the most appropriate way for the improving the awareness and understanding about various Rural Development Programmes. However, in reality, the kind of research undertaken by the research scholar is very difficult, since, due to their illiteracy, making a rural population understand about the various governmental programmes is a painstaking task. But in order to make people information literate about any particular programme, it was found ILRP was the most efficient aid to assist the rural people in various ways to clear their doubts and their dependency on unreliable sources. The study was also not able to cover all Rural Development Programmes initiated by the government for the rural population. Therefore, there is a lot of scope to improve and research on the subject considering Information Literacy Resource Package (IRLP) as one of the tools in the future.